

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-05 NSF-02 AGR-10 NAS-01 FEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9795

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJ: FIRST CONGRESS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

REF: STATE 183201

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DR. LUIS MATOS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CONICIT, CONCERNING SUBJECT CONGRESS.
DR. MATOS' OFFICE HAS INFORMED US THAT THE FINAL REPORTS
OF THE CONGRESS SHOULD BE READY IN ABOUT ONE WEEK AND THAT
EMBASSY WOULD RECEIVE COPIES AS WELL AS OTHER MATERIAL BEING
PREPARED. EMBASSY WILL TRANSMIT MATERIAL TO DEPARTMENT WHEN
RECEIVED.

2. FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WAS
CONVENED UNDER AUTHORITY OF DECREE NO. 582, 26 NOVEMBER 1974.
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS SHORT AND LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES
AGREED TO BY CONGRESS CENTER AROUND USING SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY AS A MEANS OF MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES
ARE DIRECTED TOWARDS STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL
INFRASTRUCTURE. LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES ALSO ARE DIRECTED AT
CHANGEING THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY OF THE COUNTRY AND PROMOTING
THE STUDY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO
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FOMENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL

CAPABILITIES THAT THE NEW STAGE OF VENEZUELA'S DEVELOPMENT DEMANDS. PRIORITIES LAID DOWN FOR THE PERIOD 1976-1980 CONSIST OF EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION OF INDUSTRY. IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, DEFENSE OF NATURE AND PRESERVATION OF THE ECOLOGY. THE BASIC PREMISE OF THE CONGRESS IS THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AS ELEMENTS SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT, OUGHT TO ORIENT THEIR STRATEGY WITHIN THE GENERAL PLAN OR STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

3. PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ' INAUGURAL SPEECH TO THE CONGRESS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE VENEZUELA'S SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES. THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT VENEZUELA WELCOMED AND NEEDED SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS FROM WHATEVER PARTS OF THE WORLD THAT WISHED TO COOPERATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF VENEZUELA OR WHO COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE EDUCATION STRUCTURE OF PRESENT UNIVERSITIES AND TO CREATING NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES. THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT VENEZUELA'S DEMAND FOR 12,000 SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS FALLS FAR SHORT OF THE 3,000 AVAILABLE AND THAT IS WILL BE NECESSARY TO SPEND FOUR BOLIVARES IN TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC STUDIES FOR EVERY BOLIVAR SPENT ON OTHER BASIC BASIC STUDIES. PRESIDENT PEREZ STRESSED THAT THE KEY TO DEVELOPMENT NOT ONLY FOR VENEZUELA AND LATIN AMERICA BUT ALSO FOR THE THIRD WORLD AS A WHOLE IS THE PROCUREMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SO AS NOT TO CONTINUE DEPENDING ON THE DEVELOPED WORLD.

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